

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/621,683

Examiner

Ajay Vasudeva

Applicant(s)

OATS ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 7/15/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Roy Anderson on 9/24/2004.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

On Page 5, line 9, before "ramp creates a nozzle", -- **water intake** -- has been inserted.

line 11, after "is narrower than, the", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

line 11, before "ramp tapers", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

line 17, after "A pair of", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

line 20, after "of wings, the pair of", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

line 27, after "the present invention, the", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

On page 8, line 1, after "left", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

line 2, after "right", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

line 14, before "ramp", -- **water intake** -- has been inserted.

On Page 9, line 8, before "ramps 17L and 17R", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

line 13, before "ramps 17L and 17R", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

line 18, after "section 11 and stops at", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

line 26, after "is narrower than,", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

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In the Abstract

On line 1, after "water-jet propulsion utilizes a", -- **water intake** -- has been inserted.

On line 7, before "ramps run steeply downward", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

In the Claims

In Claim 1

On line 10, before "ramp located in the tunnel", -- **water intake** -- has been inserted.

On line 13, before "ramp for supplying water", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

On line 14, before "ramp providing loading to the jet", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

On line 23, after "a pair of", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

On line 24, after "being a left", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

On line 24, after "and a right", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

On line 28, after "and a right air scoop,", -- **and one of the pair of air scoops comprises the at least one air intake,** -- has been inserted.

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On line 29, after "wings while the pair of", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

On line 31, after "wings, the pair of", -- **hull** -- has been inserted.

In Claim 6

On line 1, before "ramp is located", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

In Claim 9

On line 1, after "wherein", "**there is**" has been replaced with -- **the at least one air intake comprises** --.

In Claim 12

On line 1, before "ramp is latitudinally", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

In Claim 13

On line 1, before "ramp creates a nozzle", -- **intake** -- has been inserted.

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3. The above amendment has been made to provide clarity to the claims and to avoid a rejection based on 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and does not limit the scope of originally presented claims.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not show or teach a watercraft having a hull with a forwardly tapering nose section; a keel that knifes downward from the tip of the nose section; a pair of stabilizers disposed longitudinally and spaced apart from each other to form a tunnel that extends substantially the length of the rear half of the hull relative to the nose section; a water intake ramp located in the tunnel rearwardly from the forward beginnings of the pair of stabilizers relative to the nose section, the intake ramp tapering downwardly, a ventral water inlet located in the intake ramp for supplying water to a jet pump connected to an engine, the engine being located in the aft end-section of the hull that extends laterally and connected to the jet pump by a shaft; a mid-section passenger compartment formed within the hull with a steering control mechanism; a pair of wings flanking the passenger compartment and extending laterally therefrom and extending rearward to join the aft end-section; wherein a pair of hull ramps runs steeply downward from the leading edge of each of the pair of wings to the bottom of the hull; and wherein a pair of air scoops flanks each side of the passenger compartment from which the pair of wings extend laterally therefrom, and one of the pair of air scoops comprising at least one air intake, the pair of air scoops being located above the pair of wings while the pair of ramps being located below the pair of wings.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

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issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay Vasudeva whose telephone number is (703) 306-5992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 1:00 pm--5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


AV

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